



The Weekly Wrap Up

February 17, 2006

From Viola Miller, Tennessee's Commissioner for
The Department of Children's Services

East's Lane Moves Back to World of Juvenile Justice

A note from Deputy Commissioner Steve Hornsby:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Commissioner announces the promotion of Kirk Lane to the position of Director of Regional Services for Juvenile Justice effective March 1, 2006. "Kirk has unique qualities that will enable him to work with our partnering agencies, the courts and court staff, field services staff, and our YDC staff," said Hornsby. "His broad based experience and expertise will enable him to assist our JJ programs in improving in the quality of our casework and the quality of our services to families and children, from Mountain City to Memphis."

Kirk retired from the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby Co. in 1993 after almost 20 years as a Probation Officer and Manager. Prior to his work at Juvenile Court, Kirk was a teacher at Wilder Youth Development Center and in 1993 returned to state service as Counseling Manager at Mountain View Youth Development Center. He has experience in field services both in the Northeast Region as a Team Coordinator, and as both a Team Coordinator and the Regional Administrator in the East Tennessee Region. He has a B.S. Ed. from the University of Memphis, has completed coursework for the MS in Administration of Justice from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and is a Certified Administrator in Juvenile Justice thru the National College of Juvenile Law at the University of Nevada, Reno and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Please help us in welcoming Kirk to this new role and supporting Team Coordinator Joan Davis as she accepts her new position as Interim Regional Administrator.

EVER RIDE AROUND TOWN WITH KIDS IN THE CAR?

Yes, we thought so . . .

DCS transports hundreds of children every day. Thought it might be good to include something about this in the WWU.

Lynn Pollard, MSN, RN, CPNP

Right you are, Lynn. Here's what the CDC says this week:

In 2004, a total of 424 children aged 4–8 years died and more than 70,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes in the United States (1,2). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and CDC recommend the use of booster seats for children who weigh at least 40 pounds, are less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, and are aged 4–8 years (3). This year, National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 12–18, 2006, will focus on booster seat use.

Despite increased attention and legislation governing booster seats, use of age-appropriate child restraints by passengers aged 4–8 years continues to lag behind use by younger passengers. Although child safety seat use is greater than 90% for infants and toddlers, booster seat use is estimated nationally at 10%–20% (3). Thirty-three states have enacted laws governing booster seat use, but only two states, Tennessee and Wyoming, have laws covering children through age 8 years.

Information about National Child Passenger Safety Week activities and child passenger safety is available from NHTSA at

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> and from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>.

WHAT DOES SACWIS MEAN FOR ME ANYWAY?

(And what's this I hear about a hundred bucks?)

How often do we wonder: What if I could spend more time working directly with children and families? What if I had access to the information and resources needed to truly remove the barriers I encounter trying to achieve permanency for the children I work with---at my fingertips!

What if all DCS staff could really communicate effectively with each other, clearly understand each other's roles and capabilities, and work together to meet our goals for children and families?

What if I could spend less time trying to navigate an antiquated and cumbersome record-keeping and documentation system?

Does anybody care?

YES!

Over the past year, teams including representatives from each DCS region, OIS, designated staff from Central Office, and consultants from outside DCS started developing *the DCS Family Centered Casework and Case Planning Model and the State-Wide Automated Child Welfare Information System or SACWIS*.

The overall goals are to:

- Develop methods that will immediately impact our work in ways that follow the practice model.
- Develop a DCS Business Mapping Process that clearly outlines every important function we provide--the way we want it to work!
- Develop staff positions and processes that support the one worker one family imperative
- Develop tools that thoroughly integrate accessing records and documentation, easily link to resources and readily update with the latest technology and security parameters

Jan 4th- Jan 6th, 2006, a group of people gathered for intensive meetings to discuss the progress made on the *Development of the DCS Family Centered Casework and Case Planning Model*. It was an open, honest and productive forum with a focus on regional DCS field staff having the opportunity to present **real case scenarios and discuss real problems they encounter during the day to day provision of service.**

Here are some highlights of the meeting, and issues that you will be hearing more and more about in the future!

- TNKIDS – will become extinct. The very last build will be in the spring of 2006, with no other changes or upgrades to be made. (Hurray!) We will be in a break/fix mode only.
- How long will you continue using TNKIDS ? Our new SACWIS will be developed in stages over the next 2 –3 years, with ongoing development for several years after that.
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Do you want a really helpful system?

Then we need to know your ideas, suggestions and comments on what you would like to see in the new system:

- Over the next three months: While you are treading through TNKids, write down the things you would like to keep and things you want changed! We need your input to ensure that the program becomes a help and not a hindrance in your daily work activities. Your regional FSA is a vital part in communicating with OIS about what field staff really need. Please send any of your ideas and suggestions directly to them.
- We will need a name for the system (unless you want to hear “SACWIS” all the time)! We want you to be creative and start thinking now! The official contest will start soon, so watch for the submission dates. **Should your idea be chosen you will receive a \$100 reward.**

At the end of the session, it was decided that the key to being successful is communication. These listed below are committed providing representation during this endeavor.

The representatives from the regions are:

- CFTM - Kathy Roberts, SE
- Adoption - Gina Boatright, NW
- HCCM - Mary Beth Duke, SW

- TC - Gwynn Kersey, Shelby
- TL - Debbie Ward, UC
- Frank Mix, MC
- CPS - Thomas Jones, NE
- JJ - Jeff Robinson, Hamilton
- RMU - Pam Turner, Knox
- FPS - Sharon Putnam, SE
- Prevention - Amy Coble, SC
- FSA - Tammy Black, NE
- Deputy RA - Beverley Norment, Davidson

Central Office representatives included:

- Judy Cole – Executive Director of Regional Support
- Elizabeth Black – Executive Director Office of Permanency
- Ken Steverson- Executive Director Juvenile Justice
- Laurie Baker- OIS Business Analyst
- Stuart Clements- OIS Business Analyst
- Randall Lea- Blue Ribbon Team
- Bonnie Hommrich- Deputy Commissioner
- Shalonda Cawthon- Executive Director of Child Safety
- Rickey Schuler- Attorney
- Audrey Corder- Executive Director Family & Child Well Being Division
- Donna Johnson- Director of Training
- Julie Flannery- Director of Foster Care & Adoptions
- David Aguzzi- Program Coordinator, Office of Independent and Transitional Living
- Dave Shonts-ASA-4, Office of Independent and Transitional Living
- Becky Fracktmann
- Odessa Krech-Helmer
- Viola Miller- Commissioner

Consultants:

- Sarah Greenblatt
- Eneida Blugh
- Michelle Munson
- Kent Berkley

-- DAVID AGUZZI